

NE

# Friendship

SPRING 1985



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TAIWAN  
R. O. C.

DEDICATION OF THE  
CHURCH OF THE LEADING STAR





## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

(from his charge to the 25th Convocation at Grace Episcopal Church, Tainan in February)

### TRUST AND OBEY

You shall remember the Lord your God: for it is he that gives you power to get wealth (growth). Deuteronomy 8:18

Twenty-six years ago, on July 1, 1949, we published the first issue of the 'Diocesan Monthly'. There were only 7 churches listed – 4 of them (St. John's, All Saints', St. Andrew's and St. Paul's) are still at their original sites, whereas the other 3 (St. James', St. Peter's and Grace Church) have moved from other places to their present locations.

In 1962, the year of our second Convocation, there were only 7 clergy – 4 Westerners and 3 Chinese.

And now we have 18 churches (missions/chapels) served by 20 Chinese clergy and 2 from abroad – Fr. Merchant from ECUSA and Fr. Ogden from CMS, Australia. We are grateful for their faithful ministry.

For all these we have to thank God, for his guidance and abundant grace.

In 1979, Bishop George Reindorp of Salisbury, preaching at St. Mary's Church at her millenium, warned the parishioners of this 1000-year-old church that they should not be buried in glorious dreams of the past but must be awakening to face the genuine need of this world. The retired Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, when he was invited to preach at the 800th anniversary of the founding of the city of Durham, said: 'When looking backward, we have to thank God; on looking forward, we have to trust God; but for a Christian, the most important attitude is to look upward to seek for his wisdom and act faithfully at this living present.'

Miss Cooper, of our diocesan staff, told me once that she had seen a cartoon of a theological college campus with a road sign: to the left it indicated LIBRARY, to the right, REFECTORY, but the third arm pointed vertically to God for his GUIDANCE.

For this diocese, thirty years have gone by. Today we begin a new chapter –

the Church of the Leading Star will be dedicated on Easter Day,

Hsinchu Gospel Hall/Community Centre will be in operation by July,

Christ Church will be completed in November to serve Neiwu district,

St. Mark's Church, Pingtung, will be rebuilt after Easter (to be completed by next May).

We urgently need more full-time workers to join the ministry. We need more dedicated lay people to offer more time, energy and experience to help the church in every respect. 'When you have eaten and are satisfied, then you shall bless the Lord your God for all the good things he has given you,' said Moses to the Israelites.

Now, what could you offer to God? He is still saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' Is your answer like that of Isaiah: 'Here am I; send me'?

Trust and obey: trust his almighty power and obey his divine command, and finally by his mercy we will obtain eternal life. Amen.

P. Y. CHEUNG  
Bishop of Taiwan.

## THE CONVOCATION

The twenty-fifth Annual Convocation of the Taiwan Episcopal Church was held on February 10-11 in Tainan at the Redhill Hotel, following the opening Eucharist at Grace Church, Tainan. Presided over by Bishop Cheung, there were twenty clergy delegates and over thirty lay delegates in attendance.

In the Bishop's opening address there was an emphasis on the Church as a "household of prayer for all people" and a call to the church to "give till it hurts" in terms of our willingness to serve the community. The Bishop reviewed briefly the work of the past thirty years, noting growth in many areas.

Reports to Synod of the various diocesan organizations were received, and amendments to the Constitution were approved. A financial report was received and the next year's budget approved. This latter represented a 10% overall increase from this past year.

Parish reports indicated that there was a small numerical growth in several parishes, but that the overall size of the diocese remained small. Although claim is made for a 2000 membership, in actual fact only marginally over 50% of that number are regularly in attendance at church services.

Some discussion was generated by the annual reports from the parishes owing to the need for a closer definition of "active member". The issue was referred to the Clergy Conference for decision.

It was resolved that, in order to promote more effective budgetting for the diocese, each parish or organization should let the Diocesan office know early the amount of money it will pledge each year for the general budget.

As is usual in such meetings, it is in the fellowship of sharing outside the formal business meetings that a sense of our unity is achieved. The meetings this year were very smooth and a growing sense of fellowship in the work of the church in Taiwan was felt.

The Rev. Graham Ogden

On Tuesday morning (12th) a concluding Eucharist was celebrated, again at Grace Church, after which a number of the delegates left.

Another smaller group then met for a half-day conference on the future of the Diocese over the next five years. First, Professor Herbert Ma summarized and commented on the five episcopacies which have brought the Diocese to its present stage. Fr. Livingston Merchant then spoke on the rapid social change taking place in Taiwan and the need to organize the Diocese in such a way that, in the midst of this change, the church may spread the message of God's love by working for the people of this country in ways relevant to their needs, particularly for those poor and otherwise underprivileged people who do not stand to gain from the current economic growth.

Following these presentations, the Bishop, Professor Ma, Fr. Merchant, Fr. Michael Liu and Fr. Michael Lin answered questions from the audience. There was much discussion, and we hope that some of the ideas expressed, both during the Convocation and at this meeting, will be helpful in planning strategy for the next five years.



## NEW WORK AT TAICHUNG

Taiping is a recently developed area on the outskirts of Taichung where about four hundred families are now living. Many have members working in the nearby factories, which mainly produce electronic equipment. This expanding settlement is too far from the older part of Taichung to be effectively cared for by the vicar of St. James' Church (at present Fr. Henry Pan), and a daughter church has therefore been established at Taiping.

The new chapel, named the Church of the Leading Star, was built under the direction of the Bishop's Advisory Council. It is now the special concern of Taichung's assistant curate, Fr. Luke H.S. Chen, who began his work there some time ago by visiting families in the neighbourhood to invite them to the dedication of the chapel and to tell them that a church kindergarten was also being built to give help with their children's education.

The chapel is one of six sections in the large building, which also houses Fr. Chen's apartment and an office. The rest is occupied by the kindergarten, which comprises classrooms, an indoor playroom and a room where the children can sleep during the day and, outside, a well-equipped playground, bright with beds of flowers. So far there are seventy children, with four teachers and a part-time supervisor 'on loan' from St. James'.

To date, no other organization has offered any kind of welfare assistance in the new suburb, so Fr. Chen and his helpers are working hard to establish a suitable programme. A Sunday School has been started and regular Sunday services are being held. Classes are planned to help the local children with their home studies and a counselling service is to be set up for the young people of this industrial area. Fr. Chen is hoping also to organize outdoor gatherings such as picnics to bring families together and foster the growth of a community spirit, as well as welcoming them to join in other church activities.

On Eastern morning the chapel was dedicated. Bishop Cheung, the clergy, choir and congregation assembled in the indoor playroom, since the day was rather wet, and then processed round to the chapel door. In answer to the Bishop's knocking with his staff, the B.A.C. Chairman, Mr. K.F. Wu, opened the doors and the procession moved inside. The Bishop blessed the altar, lectern and pulpit, then the font and the water for baptism, after which Fr. Pan baptised four young people (all girls) and then celebrated Holy Communion. The congregation of more than sixty were mostly from St. James' Church but it is pleasing to note that a few were non-Christians from the surrounding district.

The service was followed by a celebratory lunch in the kindergarten. Afterwards the Bishop met with his Advisory Council to plan further for the future of this part of the Church's work. May it indeed be a Leading Star for the people of Taichung.



The Bishop, clergy and Mr. F.M. Yau (B.A.C.)



The procession entering the chapel



At present the Episcopal Church has two STUDENTS at TAIWAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE. One is —

### PHILIP WONG



Mr. Philip Wong Yau Ming was born and brought up in Hong Kong. For ten years he worked at St. Barnabas' Church as assistant to the Vicar, then the Reverend Baldwin Lau, doing clerical work and helping generally with evangelism, youth work, Sunday School and parish visiting. He was also married there, to Miss Liao Hsiao Lan.

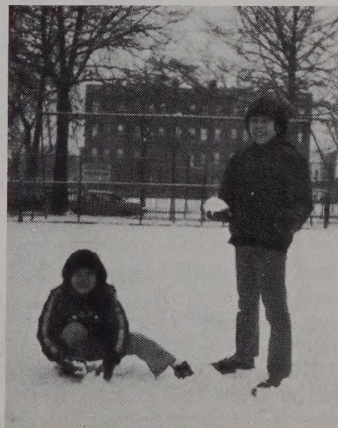
In October 1980, Philip and his family emigrated to the U.S.A. and settled in New York. There, two people in particular were very helpful to the newcomers. One was Fr. Albany To, Director of the Chinatown Mission, and the other, the Reverend Winston W. Ching, who was in charge of the Asiamerica Ministry at the Episcopal Church Center. They both showed concern for the Wong family and assisted them in many ways.

Philip went job-hunting and after one month secured a position as office clerk in a handbag factory. Meanwhile, his wife had been accepted for a six months' course in the fashion industry. Two years later, after some changes, Philip was working in the office of a truck-leasing company, where he gained much useful experience, especially in book-keeping. By this time, Mrs. Wong was working as a fashion cutter.

During these years Philip had been a very active member of the Church of Our Savior, which serves New York's Chinatown. He soon won the regard of the congregation for his dedicated work there and in 1983 he was appointed to the Bishop of New York's Advisory Committee. In the same year, as a representative of his parish church, Philip attended the National Consultation of the Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry in Hawaii. This meeting gave him a better understanding of the Church's mission to the American Asians, and he felt urged to offer himself for this work. Philip says he seemed to see the Lord and hear Him saying, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few,' and this affirmed his long-standing desire to serve the Church in the ordained ministry.

On his return to New York Philip discussed this with Fr. Ching and Fr. To, and shortly afterwards with our Bishop Cheung, who was visiting the Church of Our Savior, and the Bishop accepted him for theological training in Taiwan, where the course of studies would present no language difficulty. So in September 1984 he began the three-year course at Taiwan Theological College on Yang Ming Shan.

Part of the course is field work and at present Philip is helping at Good Shepherd Church, under the Reverend John Chien. Here he is responsible for the youth work. He does some parish visiting and also assists at the Sunday services and performs other duties as assigned by the Vicar.





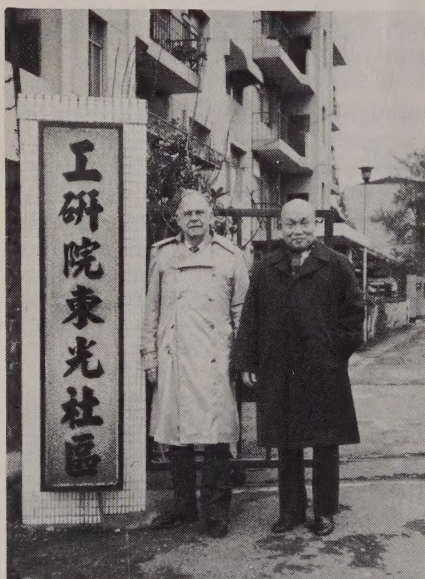
For a married man with two sons, now aged ten and seven, to undertake training for the ministry, especially so far away, involves much sacrifice. The family have received some financial assistance, for which they are grateful, from the Diocese of Taiwan, from the Church of Our Savior and from New York's suffragan Bishop Walter Dennis, but Fr. Ching is trying to raise additional support for them. Besides this financial problem, however, for a father to be away from home at this very interesting and important stage of the children's development is hard, both for him and for them.

Mrs. Wong still works as a fashion cutter and so is also away from the house when the boys come home from school. But they are not left to their own devices as some such children are — their parents have worked out a detailed programme for them to follow each afternoon of homework, piano and violin practice, small jobs and some time to watch television, until their mother comes.

Philip returned to New York in February for his one month of winter vacation. Not long after coming back to Taipei, he spent a week in hospital with an ulcer problem. He is much better now but will have to take things carefully for some months yet and is therefore looking forward to the summer vacation, when he hopes to bring the family to join him here in Taiwan. Please remember them all in your prayers.

### PROGRESS AT HSINCHU

BISHOP EDWARD HAYNSWORTH of the Executive Council of the Domestic and World Mission visited Taiwan recently to discuss the possibility of a grant from United Thank Offering funds towards establishing the proposed Gospel Hall at Hsinchu. On his arrival on 23rd March, he was met by Bishop Cheung and taken to inspect the site. Bishop Haynsworth's impressions of the project were favourable and at the May meeting of the Executive Council, a US\$28,000 grant was recommended. Bishop Cheung is now trying to raise additional funds in the hope of renovating the building in time for the influx of university students to Hsinchu in September for the new academic year.



While in Taiwan, Bishop Haynsworth preached at St. John's Cathedral on the Sunday morning, lunched with parishioners of Good Shepherd Church and visited S.J.S.M.I.T. at Hsinpu before flying south to the parishes in Tainan and Taichung. He also called in at Holy Trinity Church, Keelung, on the way back to Taipei.

This was Bishop Haynsworth's second trip to Taiwan. The first was about ten years ago, and amongst the changes that he noticed was the significant advance of the Church towards self-support. He left on the Tuesday for Manila.

### NEWS FROM GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

The new COMMUNITY CENTRE, dedicated in January last year, is very nearly finished. Fr. Chien and his family moved into their new vicarage on the top (fifth) floor, just before the Chinese New Year. They spent the first two weeks or so carting water up the stairs from the ground floor, but can now turn on the taps. The Bishop has decided to use one floor for theological training, which eases the burden of repayment of the diocesan loan.



Everyone was delighted with the announcement that the **MERCHANT FAMILY** will not now be leaving Taiwan in July as had previously been suggested. Fr. Livingston Merchant has been appointed to head the Social Science department of the Taipei American School — work which he is happily anticipating. He will still assist on Sundays and minister to the congregation, particularly the English-speaking part, in his 'spare' time. It is especially pleasing to know that Fr. Merchant's sermons, which contain many new, deep and thought-provoking ideas, as well as much light-hearted (should we say, slightly cynical?) humour, will continue here.

At the March meeting of the Good Shepherd vestry, Fr. Merchant reported on the happy and positive feelings engendered within the Western congregation about living in Taiwan. One important reason for this has been the particularly open attitude of the Vicar, **FR. JOHN CHIEN**, towards the foreigners, his welcoming them into the parish community and encouraging the two congregations to get to know each other and share their life as Christians. Fr. Chien will be missed when he leaves in August for nine months' work in Birmingham, England. Good Shepherd folk are happy, however, at the prospect of still having **MRS. GRACE CHIEN**, who shares her husband's outlook and does much to make the Westerners feel at home and to weld the two groups together. Fr. Merchant also makes a real contribution to this work through his own attitude, his having become fluent in the Mandarin language and his sense of humour. Having Fr. Ogden at Good Shepherd, whether assisting with the service or in the congregation, is also a great advantage. We thank God for giving the Church such faithful and caring ministers.

During Lent, two **BIBLE STUDY** groups met weekly to read and discuss the Book of Ecclesiastes. The Tuesday meeting, in Chinese, and the Sunday evening English one were both led by **FR. GRAHAM OGDEN**, who lectures in Old Testament at the Taiwan Theological College. This study was particularly instructive because Fr. Ogden is in the process of writing a commentary (in Mandarin) on Ecclesiastes, a book in which he has long been interested and found meaning. Asked what difference his study of this relatively little-read part of the Bible had made to his life, he said that, as a theologian, he had come to see that many facets of our life on earth are enigmatic and that, no matter how earnestly biblical scholars might ponder and debate, we would never find answers to all of our questions, but that this need not worry us. Following on this idea, the realization that no one group of people can ever claim to know all about God's 'mysterious way' had made him more tolerant of other people and their differing perceptions and views. This was particularly important when living in a predominantly non-Christian society.

One of the happiest Sunday mornings at Good Shepherd lately was March 10. On that day, Bishop Cheung came to take part in a very special English service, at which the Western congregation's new baby received his name, and his identity as a member of Christ was proclaimed, and one of the teenagers professed his commitment to follow Him.

In actual fact, **TRISTAN JENS** is the first child of Mark and Katherine **BACH**, but everyone had been looking forward to his arrival and felt a somewhat proprietary interest in him. And never, to be sure, did a baby have such a welcome to his Church family! First, the baptism itself was rich with symbols — besides being bathed with the baptismal water and receiving his name, he was marked with the cross as Christ's own, anointed with the oil of gladness, dressed in the mantle of Christ and given a lighted candle to signify His light.

Next, the Bishop confirmed **CHRISTOPHER PRICE**. The Price family, readers may recall, were pictured in the Autumn 1983 "Friendship". Christopher has had quite a grand admission to the Church, having been baptised seventeen years ago by the Bishop of Puerto Rico.

Later, during Communion, Tristan Jens was given a sample of the good things life has in store and some indication of his parents' hopes for him when they and his grandmother made up half of the sextet which sang, with piano and violin accompaniment, 'How lovely are Thy dwellings' from Brahms' Requiem. Afterwards, the monthly brunch gave the congregation the chance of a closer peep at this new (sleeping) member.



## MISSIONARY WIFE IN TAIWAN

— by Lois Ogden



Missionary wife in Taiwan! Sounds like the title of an adventure story and it is! To move from all that is familiar in one's own country and be transported to a completely new environment, there to establish a home, a secure place where the family can "be" and grow, is certainly an adventure and a challenge.

It seems I have been living this story for all of my married life but most recently in Taiwan, where my husband teaches in the Taiwan Theological College, and we live on the campus.

Naturally one of the first things that needs to be done is to set up house and learn to purchase food and other necessities to make a home and a happy environment for the family.

Following that comes the struggle with the language, on my part to learn enough at first to do the day to day marketing, which is not at all glamorous, but so necessary! Hopefully I have progressed a little further than that during our seven years in Taiwan, but anyone who has studied Chinese will attest to the fact that there is always so much more to learn.

There is always a lot to do on a college campus and ours is no exception, with students popping in for a chat or to practise their English. I have also been able to help out with our Principal's overseas correspondence and with varied tasks in the college library. It is a pleasure to live on our campus as it is a beautiful green garden and, being on a mountainside above the hustle and bustle of busy Taipei city, gives one the feeling of an oasis of quiet.

Many women living overseas, myself included, feel a need for companionship of women if not from their own country, then at least with those who speak the same language. This is not to say that one cannot have very close and dear friends in the host country, but the rapport with one's own countrymen and women is something different. I have been able to find this in a very special place, situated in an office in a suburb of Taipei, which is called "Gateway". It is a ministry of the Taipei International Church and is a resource centre for expatriates living in Taiwan. The aim of the centre is to make the transition from one culture to another easier and to provide a place where any kind of help can be sought and resources made available to solve the problems of newcomers to Taiwan.

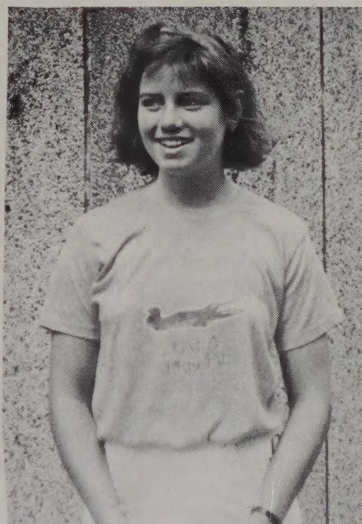
And so the story unfolds. The next chapter is being written as our two children have just returned to Australia, one for college and the other to finish the final two years of high school — they are beginning their own adventure story.



## A NOT-SO-FOREIGN STUDENT IN CHINA

My name is Elizabeth Winslow Estes (Lisa for short). Maybe some of you have seen me wandering around the church here trying to find familiarity in an unfamiliar place.

I am the daughter of the Reverend James Estes, who was formerly Chaplain and English teacher at St. Stephen's College in Stanley, Hong Kong during the time that Bishop Cheung was still Canon in that Diocese. I was born in Hong Kong in December 1964 and grew up there amidst the Chinese culture, while undoubtedly remaining an American.



When we moved to Washington D.C. in 1975, I took with me many pleasant memories of Hong Kong which I have always cherished. At Scripps College (Claremont, California), I began studying Mandarin and decided to study one semester abroad, in either Mainland China or Taiwan. My Chinese professor recommended the program at Taipei's Normal University, so here I am.

I have found the people of Taiwan very friendly. Since I grew up in Hong Kong, I do not feel a stranger amongst Chinese people.

When I arrived in Taiwan on February 18, I was delighted to be met by Bishop Cheung, who proceeded to help me arrange accommodation for my stay in Taipei. I eventually ended up moving into the Taipei International Youth Activity Center, where I have the wonderful opportunity of meeting students from all over the world. In fact, I was very fortunate to be given a Japanese roommate with whom I can only communicate in Chinese because she doesn't understand English.

My Chinese is coming along slowly; I hope to continue studying here in Taiwan after I've graduated from college. But soon I will be returning to the States because I have been offered a position on the 4-member staff of the Compadre Beach Ministry at South Padre Island, Texas. It will be a perfect opportunity for me to get a little taste of what missionary work might be like. Compadre is an outreach ministry of the Rio Grande Valley Christian Service Association and is aimed to point persons to Jesus Christ through a Christian presence on South Padre Island Beach.

I am thankful that I have been able to spend this semester here in Taipei, and feel that I have learned a lot about Chinese people and myself in the process.



## MISCELLANEOUS

**MOTHERS' DAY** For Mothers' Day this year the Taipei newspaper published a message from our Episcopalian Mrs. Yu Toong Metsung, the wife of Premier Yu Kuo-Hwa. In greeting everyone for this occasion, Mrs. Yu expressed a wish that every mother might pass on to her family the love that comes from God, and emphasised the importance of the mother's taking a good deal of the responsibility for teaching her children courtesy and good citizenship. She said that nowadays, when so many wives have to go out to work as well as raising their families, they must be brave and continue to sacrifice their own pleasures in the interests of their children's upbringing, so that these might acquire good habits by which they may build a society full of courtesy, health, orderliness and harmony.

**ANNIVERSARY** On March 15, Taiwan's President Chiang Ching-Kuo and Mrs. Chiang reached their golden wedding anniversary. On the President's return from a normal day at his office, the couple celebrated the occasion with a family dinner party. It was reported that the President received from his wife a gold cross pendant, partly as a symbol of the heavy burden of responsibility which he bears as leader of his country.

It is interesting to note that this day was also the wedding anniversary of Bishop and Mrs. Cheung — not their golden one, although that is now only eight years away.

**PLEASE PRAY** Early in May, Bishop Cheung was called to Kaohsiung to help in a tragic situation. A British seaman had been arrested after a fire on his ship, in dock at the time, had killed three people and injured three more. The 28-year-old man had admitted starting the fire after a quarrel. He told police he was penniless, and extremely depressed after having heard nothing for a long time from his family. Several of the people involved in the incident are Anglicans. Bishop Cheung has asked for our prayers for all who suffered, their families, and the seaman, who has been charged with murder.

### A FOREIGNER LOOKS AT TAIWAN — Part Three

"Are you going home for the New Year vacation?"

The answer from a Chinese friend is "Of course!"

As with our Christmas, even more so, the Lunar New Year festival is the one for which Chinese people make a supreme effort to be at home to join in the traditional religious rites,

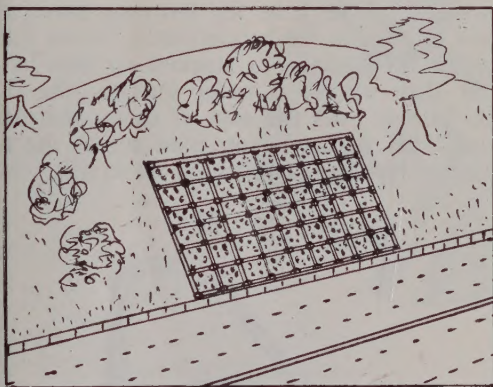




special meals and holiday fun. The business of transporting all who travel at this time calls into service every available vehicle. Tickets for trains and buses go on sale about a week beforehand and are in such demand that literally thousands of people are willing to wait for hours in the very long, police-controlled queues at the station.

In front of Taipei's bus station on New Year's Eve, the owners of private buses hopefully solicit custom. Inside, those with tickets for the Government vehicles are once again lined up. From the ceiling, a disembodied voice occasionally announces a cancelled seat on a bus which is about to depart. A feeling of pleasant anticipation keeps spirits up as coach after coach swings into its numbered bay, staying there long enough only to take on its load of holiday-makers before giving place to the next. The Government provides many extra buses at this season and those bound for Kaohsiung in the south depart every ten minutes all day long, with more during the night.

Our turn comes to take our seats and in a few minutes we are away. Before long our coach merges with the stream of traffic on the relatively new freeway which runs almost the whole length of the island, reducing what was once a tedious, day-long journey, from north to south, to a pleasant drive. The city left behind, there opens up a world of different interest, especially to those from overseas. The first half of the journey is through hilly country, the road making its way through many cuttings, whose bared sides are kept from crumbling by a variety of methods. Some parts are overlaid with open concrete-bounded squares filled in with large stones, others with rocks secured with strong netting. Concrete waterways channel the rainwater down the slopes. Grass and flowering plants provide ground-cover in other sections, and for the few miles immediately south of Taipei, great banks of azaleas now bursting into a grand show of red, white, pink and mauve contrast with the dull grey winter sky.



Further from the highway, tea plantations crawl up the hillsides in shallow steps which hug the contours of the land. These knee-high bushes look tiny after the many tea-packet pictures of pickers filling their baskets from the much taller Srilankan variety. The lower slopes have been cut, long years ago, into wider terraces, each edged with a low wall of stones, straw and mud to hold in the water necessary for rice cultivation. This can be seen in a green and brown patchwork of different stages which assist the farmers in the planting and harvesting of three crops a year.

From lane to lane vehicles weave in their scramble to get their passengers home. Just ahead of us is a small van with six adults and two children snuggled together in the back and as we pass it, we see three more people tucked in beside the driver. Another small vehicle overtakes us, four in the front and, in the back, an elderly woman comfortably snoozing in a bamboo armchair. Now a larger truck draws alongside bearing a khaki-clad melee — some twenty young men in a jumble of arms and legs, each person pillowed on the next to sleep the journey away.

After about two hours, the sun comes out as we emerge from the cloud-covered hills. These end abruptly in jagged, knife-edged ridges overlooking a wide flat sandy riverbed across which a narrow stream of water meanders. Farmers are making the most of the time between floods and, from the very long bridge, we look down on large market gardens where they are working amongst cabbages, cauliflowers and lettuces which are being nourished by the sediment left as the river receded into its dry-season channel.

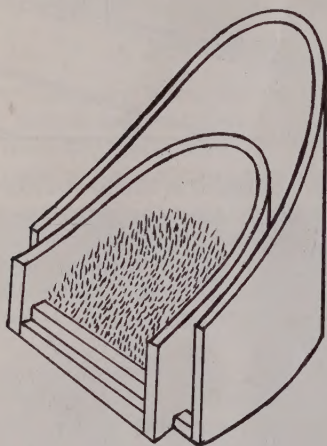
Soon a highway sign announces a refreshment area ahead, the familiar plate, knife and fork symbol of Western eating places being replaced by bowl and chopsticks. Our coach, however, passes this turnoff and takes another further on, to wend its way to Taichung station. Buses which preceded us are lined up, their passengers wandering about to stretch their legs, buying snacks or, since the wind is chilly, filling paper cups from



the hot-water fountain. Everyone is glad of the ten minutes' break. Vendors of hot lunches climb on board the buses, or stand at their doors, to do a brisk trade in assortments of meat, fish, rice and vegetables packed in plastic boxes, each with its pair of small bamboo chopsticks attached, as people return to their seats.

Out on the freeway again, our field of vision widens as the road begins crossing the plains of the southwest. This is farming land indeed, every available square inch put to use. No boundary fences or hedges are to be seen — just a vast, tightly-packed expanse of cultivation.\* Even the tops of some of the little restraining walls round the paddies are planted with the spring onions so necessary for many Chinese recipes. Mile after mile we pass of rice, purple-stalked sugar cane, waving corn and so many vegetables — rows of cabbages, green patches liberally dotted with the orange and red of ripening tomatoes, strange little forests of climbing plants winding up poles, fields of potatoes and onions, larger plants hung with the long slender violet-coloured aubergine, and many, many less familiar crops. There are vineyards, too, and further south we encounter the tropical orchards of mangoes, guavas, bananas, papaya, loquats and the popular lychees.

Knee-deep in the ricefields men and women wade, setting out the new plants. Nearby, stooks of straw from the last crop perch along the walls drying out ready for use — to be tied in bundles for broomheads, bound flat to form the hard Chinese mattresses (so much better for backs!), or stacked up into large round houses for growing mushrooms. Now and then we see a water buffalo, the farmer's strong and amenable workmate, sharing his labours. As the two of them, the man in his wide 'coolie' hat and the beast with its long, low-curving horns, plod across the soil, it seems almost unreal — as if a childhood picturebook had suddenly come to life.



On many farms, the family burial site is clearly visible, marked by what Westerners call an 'armchair tomb'. This grassy mound, partly surrounded by one or more curved walls built to provide comfort and support for the departed, is usually in a corner of the ricefield not far from the homestead. Its position, so obvious in the everyday scene of life and toil, is indicative of the continuing relationship between the ancestors and the land which sustained them, as well as between them and their descendants who till it today.

Another type of farm we often notice along our way has high earth banks enclosing rectangular dams. But what are those drifts of yellow fluff on the banks? Suddenly the fluff moves and resolves itself into hundreds of fat ducklings. "How sweet!" we think, trying not to remember that one of China's most famous dishes is Peking Duck. Round the next pond squat older, white birds with some geese wandering about as well.

But now we have reached the outskirts of Kaohsiung and a rounded hedge of yellow-leaved bushes snakes along the middle of the road, leading us away from the quiet green freshness of the countryside and into this busy industrial city. Groups of relatives waiting at the bus stops greet alighting passengers, then hurry them home to enjoy a New Year banquet of the good things with which this island, by God's grace, so abundantly rewards the day-long efforts of the farming folk.

\* Boundary walls disappeared some thirty years ago when the Land Reform Bill brought about the redistribution of Taiwan's arable land. Big landowners were amply compensated by the Government with shares in profitable businesses such as Taiwan Cement, Taiwan Electric, China Shipbuilding and China Petroleum, which brought them an income considerably higher than that from their erstwhile tenant-farmers. Large holdings were subdivided, and fences removed to make an even greater area available for agriculture.